

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Upon entry of the claim amendments herein, Claims 1-7 and 9-28 will be pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended and Claim 8 has been cancelled.

In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to add the ratio of mannuronic acid units to guluronic acid units in the alginate compounds. Support for this amendment is found in Claim 8 as originally filed.

Claim 9 has been amended to modify its dependency.

*The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)*

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as lacking novelty over each of Mays, Shawn and Cilento (WO 97/39,170, EP 0,336,894 A1, and EP 0,512,855 A2, respectively). Moreover, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as lacking novelty over two US Patents to Morley (4,400,406 and 4,400,405). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of two US Patents to Morley (4,400,406 and 4,400,405). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

But the Examiner has not rejected claims 8 and 9 and has indicated that Claim 8 rewritten in independent format would be allowable. Without addressing the rejections of the present claims over the references cited by the Examiner, claim 1, as amended herein, is claim 8 rewritten in independent format. All of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. As such, it is believed that all of the rejections made by the Examiner have been obviated at that the claims as amended herein are in allowable format. Withdrawal of all the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) have been overcome. Withdrawal of these rejections and a prompt notice of allowability is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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